

mustard, a plaster of extract hemlock, camphor and opium to spine—gtt. 60 of tinct. for morning dose, and continued so as to keep the pupils constantly dilated. The bowels now costive; this to be remedied by a pill of mass. hydrarg. aloë and pulv. rheum.

June 28th.—Had a fit, and another five days after.

July 13th.—Directed the following R: Ol. terebinth.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ss: Pulv. sacc. alb.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij: Pulv. gum Arab.  $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{a}$ : Aqua destill.  $\mathfrak{z}$ iv. Tablespoonful three times a day.

17th.—Had a fit—the menses in large quantity, amounting almost to a flooding.

23d.—Had a fit. The tongue denoting gastric derangement, we have discontinued the ol. tereb. mixture, and with our consent, the patient has gone for a time to reside on the Brooklyn heights, for the benefit of purer air—all medicine discontinued. Diet to be observed, and take warm salt water baths, (recently established by Mr. Gray of Brooklyn.)

Remarks.—First. On stricter inquiry, we are led to believe that although this young lady has been subject to fits in their open, undisguised form, for three years, she has been predisposed to them from birth—for, in her earliest infancy, she had an attack—and had several of what are vaguely termed “inward fits.” When congenital and hereditary, says Esquirol, it is never cured.

Secondly. We were induced to consider the fits depending on the condition of the menstrual discharge, and directed our treatment accordingly. We succeeded with act. plumbi grs. ij and opii grs. ss, frequently repeated, in moderating the discharge, but not in preventing the fits.

Thirdly. We are led to agree with Esquirol, not from this solitary case; for, during two years residence in Philadelphia Alms-house Hospital, there were many, very many cases, under every variety of treatment, not excepting even animal magnetism; and we regret to add, with no more beneficial results. The disease is a truly deplorable one; and thrice fortunate would he be who can point us to a certain remedy, even in a small number of cases.

290 Broadway, January, 1839.

ART. VIII. *Bite of a Spider on the Glans Penis, followed by violent symptoms—recovery.* By ISAAC HULSE, M.D., U. S. N. Fleet Surgeon, W. I. Squadroo.

On the 7th of August last, Mr. Q. of this place, while in the privy, perceived himself to be stung by a spider on the glans penis. The pain, which was not great at the moment, continued to increase till 1 P. M., an hour

after the accident, when it had become extreme, and I was called to see the patient. I found him lying upon a cot, and writhing under the most acute suffering. The place where the sting was made, showed no marks of irritation nor swelling. I however applied to it a strong solution of carbonate of potash, which I happened to have about me, and ran to the apothecary's for medicines. My absence lasted but a few minutes, and on my return, I found him vomiting with great violence, and complaining of deep-seated pain in the abdomen, extending up into the chest, and of sensations of choking and suffocation. The vessels of the neck and face were greatly distended, and of a dark hue. I opened a vein in the arm and let blood copiously through a large orifice, and commenced immediately to give aqua ammoniac and laudanum in doses of a teaspoonful of each every ten minutes, which were ejected as often from the stomach—pains and spasms along the spine and extremities now came on, and the agony and anxiety were, if possible, increased. Strong volatile liniment, tinct. cantharides, and spirits terebinth. were alternately applied to every part of the body by the patient's numerous friends who had assembled round him, and common injections were administered as frequently as they conveniently could be, with a view to open the bowels. The ammonia and laudanum were assiduously plied and occasionally same tinct. camphoræ, likewise; at the suggestion of Dr. Edwards of the navy who was called in, the oleum olivæ was freely administered. At 3 p. m. the paroxysms of pain came on at longer intervals, and the vomiting was less urgent, but the intensity of the pain when present, was undiminished. The principal medicines relied on, viz. the ammonia and laudanum, were continued every half hour, and at about 5 o'clock, after the exhibition of fifteen injections, fecal evacuations were obtained from the bowels. The patient became much easier in the course of the evening, and was able to retain a dose of castor oil, which purged him freely; but the pain in the legs continued through the night, which he passed without sleep.

On the subsequent day, sinapisms were applied to the legs without effect, and the evening brought little or no mitigation of the pain. Veins were now opened in both feet, which were placed in warm water, and the blood was allowed to flow till an impression was made on the pulse. In an hour after the bleeding, the patient enjoyed perfect ease; he slept well that night, and on the following day was able to walk about the house. He recovered in health very speedily.

This gentleman is of dark complexion, short stature, and powerful muscular development.

I saw several spiders in the place where he received the sting. They were of large size, of a dark brown colour, covered with hairs over the legs and body.

In this case four ounces of laudanum and an equal quantity of aqua ammoniac were administered in the space of four hours.

*Pensacola, February 2d, 1839.*